



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

November 5, 1999

Mr. Michael Berlien
General Manager
La Puente Valley County Water District
P.O. Box 3136
La Puente, CA 91744

Subject: Response to Comments on the May 1999 Baldwin Park Operable Unit Explanation of Significant Difference, Baldwin Park Operable Unit, San Gabriel Valley Superfund Sites

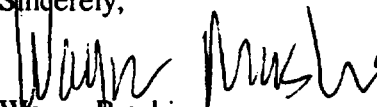
Dear Mr. Berlien:

Thank you for your comments, dated June 14, 1999, on the Baldwin Park Operable Unit Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) issued by EPA in May 1999. EPA issued the ESD to update its March 1994 Record of Decision for the Baldwin Park Operable Unit in response to the discovery of several new chemicals of concern in the groundwater.

We previously wrote to you and your President, on January 8, 1999 and March 9, 1999 respectively, supporting the La Puente Valley County Water District's ("the District") efforts to install and operate treatment facilities capable of removing perchlorate and other contaminants from groundwater at your Baldwin Park area wellfield. We continue to support your efforts, and are working with the Potentially Responsible Parties, the Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster, and others to work out arrangements for use or discharge of the treated groundwater to be extracted as part of the Baldwin Park cleanup. Discussions also continue over the use of existing facilities such as your wellfield and treatment facilities. We greatly appreciate the District's offer to allow use of your existing facilities in the regional cleanup. We also recognize that the District's customers, with assistance from local water agencies, have paid most of the cost of the recently installed treatment facilities and expect reasonable compensation for use of those facilities.

We will continue to work with you and other affected water producers to design and build the Baldwin Park cleanup facilities in a way that best protects and begins to restore the San Gabriel Valley groundwater basin. If we can be of further help with this project, please contact me at (415) 744-2256.

Sincerely,


Wayne Fraskins
EPA Project Manager